



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held November 30, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Director of Health Services' attached recommendation to approve and authorize the Director to submit one or more applications to the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care for Federally Qualified Health Center designation for one or more County operated freestanding ambulatory care sites and execute any other documents for the Federal and State governments necessary to obtain the benefit of such designation from Medicare or Medi-Cal.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Burke:

"Before us today is an ordinance to create a Community Health Center Board (CHCB) for the governance of our free-standing outpatient centers as well as a recommendation from the Department of Health Services to submit an application for Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) look-alike status for three of the County's Comprehensive Health Centers (CHCs).

"The implementation of the CHCB ordinance, along with the approval by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the application for FQHC look-alike status, will fundamentally change the way the CHCs are governed.

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“Because the implementation of the CHCB is necessary for approval of the County’s FQHC look-alike application, we support both the approval of the ordinance and the delegation of authority to the Director of Health Services to submit the FQHC look-alike application. We support moving forward because FQHC look-alike status for our CHCs would backfill a portion of the forecasted loss of cost-based reimbursement under our 1115 Waiver beginning on July 1, 2005.

“We support more community involvement and oversight of our health system. However, we have concerns that implementation of the CHCB makes more complex the responsibilities and reporting relationships involved in the operation of our CHCs.

“We further understand that HRSA will review the application for FQHC look-alike status, and that based on this review, changes to the ordinance and the application may be required. Changes to the ordinance must be made by the Board.

“We therefore recommend that the Director of Health Services report back with a detailed analysis of the responsibilities of the CHCB, the Department and the Board under the proposed ordinance and application.

“We further recommend that the Director of Health Services report back to the Board any changes to the application required by the HRSA.”

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Antonovich and Yaroslavsky:

“Although it is important to move forward with the applications for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Bureau of Primary Care for Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike Status for the three comprehensive health centers identified, it is imperative for the Department of Health Services to develop an implementation plan on FQHC Look-Alike Status for the remaining comprehensive health centers and freestanding Multi-ambulatory Care Center in the San Gabriel, San Fernando and Antelope Valley areas.

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“The Department of Health Services has stated that it intends to seek approval for this application and subsequently seek approval from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand the scope of the project to include the High Desert Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC), the other three County Comprehensive Health Centers (Mid-Valley, Long Beach and El Monte) and associated health centers. It is essential that we move forward with including as many of our free-standing outpatient centers under the FQHC Look-Alike program as possible in order to help mitigate against the forecasted loss of cost-based reimbursement.

“We therefore recommend that the Director of Health Services report back to the Board with a detailed plan outlining the necessary steps and estimated time frame for expansion of the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike Status to include the High Desert Multi-Ambulatory Care Center, our three other Comprehensive Health Center’s and associated health centers, pending approval of the County’s grant application.

“We further recommend that the Director of Health Services report back to the Board within 30 days of the Health Resources and Services Administration’s response to the Department of Health Services grant application, in order that the plan to expand the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike scope of services be finalized and fully implemented.”

Genevieve Clavreul addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board approved the Director of Health Services’ recommendations as amended to instruct the Director of Health Services to report back to the Board on the following:

1. A detailed analysis of the responsibilities of the Community Health Center Board, the Department and the Board of Supervisors under the proposed ordinance and application;
2. Any changes to the application required by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration; and

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3. A detailed plan outlining the necessary steps and estimated time frame for expansion of the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike Status to include the High Desert Multi-Ambulatory Care Center, our three other Comprehensive Health Center's and associated health centers, pending approval of the County's grant application.

In addition, the Director of Health Services was instructed to report back to the Board within 30 days of the Health Resources and Services Administration's response to the Department of Health Services grant application, in order that the plan to expand the Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike scope of services be finalized and fully implemented.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
County Counsel

(ALSO SEE BOARD ORDER NO. 88-A THIS DATE)